

3. HEALTH TRENDS IN HAMILTON COUNTY: FINDINGS

As referenced in Section X, trend data is presented as multi-year rolling averages that are computed for various health indicators. Again, the total number of events that occurred for a three year period are divided by the total population over the three year time frame. Then, the groupings of consecutive “three year time frames” are reviewed over a particular span of time. The trends noted in this study were for an eleven (11) year span of time, 1986-1997. The following observations were noted for selected health indicators:

I. Pregnancy and Birth Experience (Source: Tennessee Department of Health)

- a. Number of live births is decreasing for all races and all ages and is below the state trend for this category*
- b. Percent of live Births , classified as low birthweight, for all races and all ages is increasing and is above the statewide trend for this category*
- c. Percent of live births, to White mothers classified as low birthweight, , for all ages is increasing, and is above the statewide trend for this category.*
- d. Percent of live births, to Black mothers classified as low birthweight, for all ages shows a fluctuating trend and is above the statewide trend for this category*
- e. Percent of live births to unwed mothers, all races, ages 10-44, has been fluctuating for most of the 12 year span but has decreased since 1996. Hamilton County is above the statewide trend for this category.*
- f. Percent of live births to unwed mothers, White, ages 10-44, is increasing and is above the state trend for this category*
- g. Percent of live births to unwed mothers, Black, ages 10-44, has been fluctuating for most of the 12 year span. The County trend is above the statewide trend.*
- h. Teen pregnancy rate for all races, ages 10-17, is decreasing. This trend is below the statewide trend.*

II. The Morbidity Experience (Source: Tennessee Department of Health)

- a. Syphilis rate, male and female, all races, all ages, fluctuated from 1986-1992 but has been decreasing since 1993. This trend is below the statewide trend.*
- b. Syphilis rate for White females has been decreasing and is below the statewide trend*
- c. Syphilis rate for White males has been decreasing and is below the statewide trend*
- d. Syphilis rate for Black females has been increasing but is below the statewide trend*
- e. Syphilis rate for Black males has been increasing but is below the statewide trend*
- f. Chlamydia rate for males and females, all races, all ages, has been increasing and is above the statewide trend.*
- g. Gonorrhea rate, both genders, all races/ ages, is decreasing but above the state.*